catered extensively for English tastes, groaned and thought wistfully of Holland, their little libraries of Tauchnitz editions unused; the English they had laboured to acquire, unexercised, and the authentic plum-pudding they were accustomed to dish up on Christmas Day, not required.

Instead of, as had been predicted, England becoming scorned and rejected among nations still righteously on gold, these, too, some soon, some later, some regretfully, some gladly, followed England's example and abandoned the Gold Standard. When even the United States, despite an immense gold reserve, took this step in 1933, it was clear that the Gold Standard no more existed, and would probably never be resurrected. Gold continued to be precious, more precious than ever- As its price soared, it was dug out of the earth with even greater eagerness than before, deposits hitherto not thought worth working, now worked; gold-mine shares doubling, trebling, in value, and greatly enriching those who bought and sold them judiciously; shops which specialised in buying old gold doing a large business, new ones coming into existence, sometimes queues forming of persons with golden objects to dispose of. In India, ornaments reserved for ceremonial occasions, sole treasure of penurious households, were sold and exported to the value of ^40,000,000 annually, to be melted down and stored away, no more gleaming on arms and ankles and fingers, become geometrical, immobile, in underground vaults; and in the U.S.S.R. special *torgsin* shops were established which offered food unobtainable elsewhere in exchange for gold, the hungry bringing a

strange litter of ancient coins, brooches, trinkets, tooth-stoppings even, and after these had been tested and weighed, receiving proportionate quantities of delicacies like butter and sausage for which their bellies had long craved.

From many places, expected and unexpected, came gold, most to find its way at kst to the United States, there remaining. Little trickles flowed into rivulets, and these into a main stream, which emptied into bank vaults and was lost to view.

People soon got used to the idea of being off gold. It really